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Voyage to Vietnam: Celebrating the Tet Festival
Cultural Exhibition Returns to Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose
Saturday, July 8, 2023

San Jose, CA – July 5, 2023 – Visitors can experience the beauty, sights, and sounds of Vietnam through its most important celebration of the year, Tet, with the return of the exhibition *Voyage to Vietnam: Celebrating the Tet Festival (Voyage to Vietnam)* at Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose. The rich traditions, customs, and values exemplified by Tet are showcased in the exhibit, helping people discover the similarities and differences between the lives of children and families in Vietnam and those in the United States.

The exhibit opens Saturday, July 8 and runs through December 31, with sponsorship from CEFCU. *Voyage to Vietnam* first opened at the museum in 2015 and after a popular three-year national tour to nine children's museums to promote cultural understanding, the exhibit returned to the museum in 2018.

Visitors will delight in trying on a giant lion dance mask, selecting traditional flowers and faux food items to prepare for the festivities, dressing up in customary *Ao Dai* and posing for a family photo, hopping on a Vespa, and creating a digital fireworks display to signal the coming of the New Year.

"With one of the largest populations of Vietnamese people in the country, it's important to reflect the community we serve and provide a place for diverse stories and histories to be told, so that all families who visit the museum can explore the rich traditions, customs, and cultures of Silicon Valley," said Marilee Jennings, executive director of Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose. "Tet is one of the most popular holidays in the Vietnamese community and I believe exhibitions like ours play a positive role in uniting people through celebrated traditions."

Ten local community leaders helped co-create the museum's two-year development of the exhibit to ensure cultural authenticity. The Freeman Foundation Asian Culture Exhibit Series funded the exhibit through a highly competitive national initiative.

WALK THROUGH THE EXHIBIT

Visitors are immediately transported to the Tet Festival in modern day Vietnam upon entering the exhibit through the *New Year* gateway. Children can hop a Vespa to experience a common form of transportation in Vietnam, and role-play ordering different foods at a street-side cafe in the *Marketplace* to discover what children in Vietnam eat. Visitors will enjoy immersing themselves in the rituals of everyday life and learn how families honor their ancestors in the *Home* section.

Children can explore first-hand the sounds of South Vietnam through music recorded by a local Vietnamese musician with musical instruments that are on display, along with photos showing how the instruments are played.

In the *Courtyard*, children walk through the outdoor kitchen found in many Vietnamese homes for a fun peek into how cooking is similar and different between an urban home and rural Vietnam. A highlight of any visit is the opportunity for children and adults to design their own digital fireworks display that bursts into the night sky signaling the coming of the New Year.

[About Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose](#)

Kids lead the way at Children's Discovery Museum of San Jose, exploring and discovering through open-ended, play-based learning. Over 150 hands-on exhibits and programs in the sciences, humanities, arts, nature, and health spark curiosity and ignite family fun where children build life skills in creative and critical thinking, problem solving, and confidence. The award winning nonprofit celebrates people and diverse cultures, creates authentic connections, and builds global understanding. The museum has welcomed more than 10 million visitors since 1990 by inspiring creativity, curiosity and lifelong learning inside the stunning 52,000 square foot purple museum, designed by the late world-renowned Mexico City architect Ricardo Legoretta, and outside in the half-acre nature space.

www.cdm.org

About The Freeman Foundation

The Freeman Foundation was established in 1993. This private foundation is committed to increasing and strengthening the understanding of nations in East Asia. A project timeline, an executive summary of *Increasing U.S. Children and Families' Understanding of Asian Cultures: A Final Report*, and additional information about the initiative can be found on the ACM website,

www.childrensmuseums.org, under the Professional Development tab.

About Association of Children's Museums (ACM)

Started in 1962, the Association of Children's Museums (ACM) is the world's foremost professional member service organization for the children's museum field. With more than 400 members in 48 states and 20 countries, we leverage the collective knowledge of children's museums through convening, sharing, and dissemination. To learn more about ACM and to find an ACM-member children's museum near you, visit

www.childrensmuseums.org.